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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Tadao YOSHIDA et al.  
Serial No.: 09/885,480  
Filed: June 20, 2001  
For: INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM, TERMINAL  
APPARATUS, INFORMATION CENTER, RECORDING MEDIUM,  
AND INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION METHOD  
Group A.U.: 2631

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited this  
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Jay H. Maioli  
Reg. No. 27,213

Date

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

As a means of complying with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 CFR § 1.56 and in keeping with the guidelines of 37 CFR § 1.98, Applicants hereby submit information thought to be relevant to the examination of the above-identified application. Also submitted herewith is a completed form PTO-1449.

This information came to light during the examination of

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a counterpart application in the European Patent Office in a Search Report dated September 13, 2002. Accordingly, the undersigned hereby certifies that each item submitted herewith is being submitted within three months from the date of that Search Report.

U.S. Patent No. 6,160,788 (Kobayashi et al.) apparently relates to a data recording medium, recording and reproducing system, and residual amount display method. The data recording medium can display a residual amount of a memory capacity when a file of digital data of an image, music, or text is recorded. A backup power source is not needed, even in a recording medium such as an integrated circuit (IC) memory card, a floppy disk, or a magnetooptic (MO) disk.

European Patent Application No. EP 0 898 278 (Inoue) apparently relates to a data transmitting and receiving system wherein a data file produced by a user can be uploaded to a server and the uploaded data file is downloaded to another user. The system provides a place where users can present and sell works.

European Patent Application No. EP 0 915 410 (Yokono et al.) apparently relates to a downloading system that can be used freely by multiple unspecified users. A recording medium is loaded in a public downloading apparatus and use condition confirmation processing is performed by using information recorded on the medium. A start of processing for downloading various information using the public downloading apparatus is allowed according to a result of the use condition

confirmation processing. Communication of information necessary for the use condition confirmation processing with respect to use of the public downloading apparatus or for downloading processing can be performed between the public downloading apparatus and a server system.

European Patent Application No. EP 0 921 487 (Ishikawa et al.) apparently relates to a method and system for billing on the Internet. The method can reject invalid orders reliably and can be used without a credit card. A terminal makes a request of a content server for a chargeable service by using a prepaid information medium having predetermined information necessary for transactions. After the request the content server makes a request of a prepaid information management server for authentication to check whether the prepaid information medium is authorized to be used for the server, and for billing for the prepaid information medium. Then the prepaid information management server authenticates the medium and performs the billing based on usage of the chargeable service. If the authentication and the billing succeed, the content server provides the chargeable service to the terminal.

European Patent Application No. EP 0 942 417 (Hirai) apparently relates to a recording medium and information transmission system. Accounting information is written in a recording medium in which contents are to be recorded via a pre-paid system, and money is withdrawn each time copying is performed. A copied title is read from the recording medium

when the contents are downloaded from the service terminal connected to the contents service provider and transmitted to the contents service provider. The recording medium and information transmission system is capable of copying contents in a recording medium without troublesome user work and payment is properly and automatically made to a copyright holder and distributor.

European Patent Application No. EP 1 006 526 (Inoue et al.) apparently relates to a data copying system, apparatus, and method, and to a recording medium. The apparatus is used for copying data recorded on a first recording medium to a second recording medium, and includes a data modification control section for controlling modification of the data in accordance with modification control information. The data modification control section determines whether billing is required for the copying of the data in accordance with a billing control flag included in the modification control information.

Japanese Patent No. 10187914 (Koizumi) apparently relates to a data recording medium, a recording and reproducing system, and a residual capacity display method. A liquid crystal display (LCD) is used to visually display a residual memory capacity of a data recording medium such as an IC memory card. The LCD consists of a ferroelectric high polymer liquid crystal to display the memory capacity of the data recording medium without using a backup power supply for the LCD.

No fee is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. However, if a fee is required for this submission, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite fee to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,  
COOPER & DUNHAM LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay H. Maioli". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jay" and last name "Maioli" being clearly legible.

Jay H. Maioli  
Reg. No. 27,213

JHM/AVF